

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd., Chatham, NJ 07928 ~ 973-635-4600

Minutes of the Tuesday, April 1, 2008 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, P. Payton, O. Raadam, D. Stillinger, L. Tavtigian, W. O'Connor. John Linson – Forester – consultant who is working on EC conservation easement data collection project.

CTEC'S PURPOSE (N.J.S.A.40:56A, 1968): To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2008 was published in the Chatham Courier & Daily Record newspapers and posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings and participate in projects.

MINUTES

P. Payton motioned to approve the minutes from March 4, 2008, S. Carroll 2nd with all in favor.

APPRECIATION!

Recognition to Pat Collington for an outstanding job of organizing the All-Boards Supper last Wednesday. CTEC recognizes the vast amount of effort involved. We're extremely grateful! And thanks to all who attended for taking the time to support the project.

REMEMBRANCE

Bruce Campbell, former long-time chair of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission, recently died. CTEC extends its deepest sympathy to his family and remembers with gratitude his exceptional service to the commission and to the environment.

EVENTS

- Friday, April 4, 2008. 6:30-8 PM, Harding Township municipal building, 21 Blue Mill Rd. *Be Heard!*, GSWA Citizen Advocacy Program. Free.
- Sat., April 5, 2008. 8 AM-5 PM, Rutgers University School of Law, 123 Washington St., Newark. NJ Environmental Federation 22nd Annual Conference. Topics include global warming, pesticide and drug pollution of drinking water, Highlands Regional Master Plan. \$30. Info at www.cleanwateraction.org/njec.
- Wed., April 9, 2008. 7 PM, East Hanover municipal building, 411 Ridgedale Ave. ANJEC Roadshow: "Open Space Stewardship, and Stormwater Management - New, More Natural Techniques."
- Thurs., April 24, 2008. 10 AM, Chatham Borough municipal building. Ground Water Protection Committee meeting. All welcome.
- Monday, April 28, 2008. 7-9:30 PM, Woodbridge Town Hall, 1 Main Street, Woodbridge. ANJEC road show, "Municipal Energy Audits & Emissions Inventories." Free for CTEC members. www.anjec.org for more information.
- Sat., May 10, 2008. 9 AM to dusk. Summit's Green Festival on Summit Village Green. City volunteer committees will display information important to our community. Workshops, Green Walking Tour, Eco Scavenger Hunt of Downtown Summit, music, food, "Free-cycle" community yard sale. <http://www.summitgreen.org>.
- May 2008. Mike Romankiewicz's Great Swamp Stream Monitoring Program.

GRANTS

- CTEC was awarded a free copy of the GIS mapping program ArcView for 2008 from the ESRI Corporation.

APPLICATION/LOI REVIEW

- 529 GREEN VILLAGE ROAD. 1-31-08. Block 48.21, Lot 179. Application by Verizon Wireless to Board of Adjustment for height/setback variances, flagpole, shed. Applicant applying to DEP for Transition Area Waiver Redevelopment. NEW. D. Stillinger and O. Raadam to review. OPEN.
- 49 WOODMONT DRIVE. 3-4-08. Block 128, Lot 53. Application to NJDEP for LOI for delineation and classification of possible wetlands on property. PENDING.

- 180 PARK AVENUE, FLORHAM PARK. 2-1-08. Block 1401, Lot 1. Application to NJ DEP by ExxonMobil Global Remediation for a flood hazard area individual permit for remediation in a flood hazard zone. Project is environmental investigation and remediation pursuant to the NJ Voluntary Clean-up Program involving remedial excavation of sediment from bed of ditch. Location is near the center of the former Exxon tract in Florham Park. The application was sent to CTEC as an interested party because the proposed work will be done in an area that drains to Black Brook. However, the brook in question is in Florham Park in the Whippany River watershed and is not the same Black Brook as in Chatham Township. Recommend no action needed by EC. CLOSED.
- 32 PARK VIEW ROAD. 2-12-08. Block 113, Lot 115.10. Application to NJ DEP for General Permit #8 for expansion of existing building. Property backs up to wetlands in Great Swamp Refuge and north corner is wetlands. NJDEP has visited the site and flagged the wetland area. The wetlands come within 50 feet of the rear of the house. S. Carroll motioned to approve amended letter to the NJDEP and P. Payton seconded with all in favor. CLOSED.
- ST. HUBERT'S ANIMAL WELFARE CENTER. 2-15-08. Block 142, Lot 4.01. Application to NJ DEP for a Treatment Works Approval permit for a septic system receiving over 2,000 gallons per day. D. Stillinger. PENDING.
- 55 MOUNTAIN AVE. 4-27-07. Block 37, Lot 5.01. Majmudar. Application to Planning Board to construct one house with variances for front yard setback, house size. 11 trees proposed to be removed plus others along driveway. First application was rejected by Planning Board. PB subdivision approval for Bernardo in 2004 allows maximum 1500 sq ft house footprint, current applicant proposes 2236 sq ft house footprint plus 529 sq ft garage footprint. Site visit on Sat. 11-3-07 revealed shale just below the surface. CTEC applications subcommittee memo to Planning Board was sent 10-4-07, approved by full commission 11-6-07. Application to be heard at 4/14/08 Planning Board Meeting. CTEC considering sending another letter. PENDING.
- OAK KNOLL SCHOOL. Public hearing was held on 9-11-07 concerning request to temporarily break the DEP conservation easement on the Oak Knoll school property at Hickory Tree in order to replace an existing stormwater pipe. DEP and Township engineer had no objection. CTEC is following this application. OPEN

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

- Planning Board – L. Caprioglio not at last Planning Board meeting, COAH issues and concerns discussed. 55 Mountain Ave. application should be heard at next meeting, as long as it is not rescheduled. Planning Board Issue – Discussion on the need to have professionals at meetings to ensure the awareness of issues and topics that are being considered. L. Caprioglio.
- Open Space – Bike path moving forward. S. Hoag.
- Township Committee – Review of reports from all committees – no public attendance. Tree ordinance to be introduced at next week's meeting. W. O'Connor.
- Education and Outreach Subcommittee Report – Reaching out to state departments, utility companies and other businesses concerning anti-idling enforcement. P. Collington attended Summit EC meeting – many attendees - they sent out a survey for public input on environment concerns. Motion approved for EC to buy 6 "Walter Wet" CDs (cute educational program on stormwater and the hydrological cycle) and give one to each school. P. Collington.
- Energy Subcommittee – no updates. S. Carroll.
- Back2Tap – Program success is continuing in schools. K. Abbott.
- Update on request by New Jersey Conservation Foundation to note for possible action encroachments into the conservation easement on Township property on Green Village Road. Site visit on 2-19-08 by D. Stillinger and T. Morris (NJCF Land Steward). NJCF will be asked to send a work proposal for signs near pond on B144 L39 and deer resistant plantings along the northwest property line on B48.17 L130.01. EC will incorporate the proposal into a recommendation to the Township Committee.
- Conservation Easements – EC consultant John Linson met with D. Stillinger and L. Caprioglio. Assessments on remaining conservation easements to begin in May. Conservation easement inventory is on a CD showing map and easement information along with size and property owner.

SIXTH ANNUAL RIVERSIDE CLEANUP is Sat. April 19, 2008 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. See Task List.

SPRING ELECTRONICS RECYCLING is Sat., May 3, 2008, 9 AM to noon. L. Tavtigian will run it.

SURVEY REQUEST - UPDATE

- Essex County Department of Parks announced that the Essex County Environmental Center has received a grant from the National Parks Service to create a Passaic River Trail on the upper portion of the Passaic River. Phase 1 is to establish a list of existing launch sites. Request for Chatham Township to evaluate each existing and potential launch site. Public hearing will follow after launch site inventory is complete. CTEC responded by e-mail with a map showing public and private land along the river in Chatham Township. There are currently no launch sites in the Township.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- March 2008. Comment letter to COAH objecting to relaxing of environmental standards in order to build housing units on environmentally critical areas as defined in Chatham Township land use ordinances (areas or features which are of significant environmental value, including but not limited to: stream corridors; natural heritage priority sites; habitat of endangered or

threatened species; large areas of contiguous open space or upland forest; steep slopes; and well head protection and groundwater recharge areas.)

- Feb. 2008: Comment letter to NJ Highlands Council re Highlands Regional Master Plan.

MAIL RECEIVED (not including applications and notices mentioned above)

Minutes of Long Hill EC and Chatham Borough EC.

Various newsletters, event announcements, and flyers.

CTEC meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Carolyn Scannelli

Minutes Secretary